



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GRAND JURY RETURNS SIX INDICTMENTS

(Tyler, TX) A federal grand jury returned six indictments this week for federal violations in the Eastern District of Texas.

MICHAEL ZIRKLE, 39, of Gladewater, Texas, has been indicted on numerous charges arising from his position as a licensed gun dealer. The indictment against Zirkle alleges three counts of false statements of a federal firearms licensee, false statements in connection with the attempted acquisition of a firearm, failure to record sale of a firearm, and failure to conduct a background search. His indictment also includes five counts of selling a firearm to a felon, one count each of failure to record and maintain records of receipt and disposition of firearms, and failure to maintain records to receipt and disposition of firearms.

If convicted, Zirkle faces up to ten years imprisonment and a fine up to \$250,000 on each count. This case is being investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jim Noble.

ABRAN GONZALES SOLIS, 26, of Hallsville, Texas and **HOWARD CHOY**, 35, of Longview, Texas, have been indicted for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine, distribution of 50 grams or more

of methamphetamine, and use and carrying of a firearm during a drug trafficking crime.

According to information presented in court, on June 21, 2006, agents of the Gregg County Organized Drug Enforcement Unit along with a special agent of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives executed a state search warrant in Hallsville, Texas. Solis was named in the search warrant as the suspected party. The search warrant had been signed by a Gregg County Texas District Court Judge authorizing the search of the residence. Upon execution of the search warrant, agents located approximately 1300 grams of methamphetamine/ice inside the residence. Methamphetamine was found in two black duct tape packages, one clear food saver package, on top of a computer desk, in the freezer, and in a plastic bag concealed inside of a "Hide a can" in the garage.

On June 22, 2006, Agents of the Gregg County Organized Drug Enforcement Unit along with a Special Agent of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives executed a state search warrant in Longview, Texas. Choy was named in the search warrant as the suspected party. The search warrant had been signed by a Gregg County Texas District Court Judge authorizing the search of the residence. Upon execution of the search warrant, Agents located methamphetamine, marijuana, almost \$2,000 in U.S. currency, two pistols, and a shotgun inside the residence.

This case is being investigated by the Gregg County Organized Drug Enforcement Unit, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Drug Enforcement Administration and Assistant United States Attorney Richard Moore is prosecuting the case.

If convicted, both Solis and Choy faces up to life imprisonment and a fine up to \$4,000,000 on the count of conspiracy and not less than 5 years and a fine up to \$250,000 for the firearm charges.

JASON RAYSHARD WILLIAMS, 21, of Henderson, Texas, has been indicted for possession with intent to distribute cocaine base and use, carrying, and possession of a firearm during and in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

According to information presented in court, on November 28, 2005, and again on March 25, 2006, Williams was stopped for traffic violations by the Texas Department of Public Safety in Rusk County. On both occasions, Williams was found to be in possession of cocaine and a firearm.

If convicted, Williams faces up to 20 years imprisonment and a fine up to \$1 million for the possession charge, and 5 years imprisonment and a fine up to \$250,000 for the firearm charges.

This case is being investigated by the Texas Department of Public Safety and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Assistant United States Attorney Gregg Marchessault is prosecuting the case.

LONNEY CHARLES WILLIAMS, 42, Carthage, Texas, has been indicted for felon in possession of a firearm.

According to information presented in court, on March 8, 2006, Williams was stopped by the Carthage Police Department and found to be in possession of a .38 caliber revolver. Williams has seven prior felony convictions for drug possession and burglary.

If convicted, Williams faces up to 10 years imprisonment and a fine up to \$250,000.

This case is being investigated by the Carthage Police Department and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Assistant United States Attorney Gregg Marchessault is prosecuting the case.

MICHAEL BOYD, 38, of Center, Texas, has been indicted for felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition. According to information presented in court, the Center Sheriff's Department executed a warrant at Boyd's home and located a 12 gauge shotgun and ammunition during the search. Boyd has prior felony convictions for drugs and voluntary manslaughter.

If convicted, Boyd faces up to 10 years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000. This case is being investigated by the Shelby County Sheriff's Department and Lufkin Police Department and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Lisa Flournoy.

LAVERNE GRAY, 64, of Lufkin, Texas, has been indicted for felon in possession of a firearm, possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine and possession of a firearm during a drug trafficking crime.

According to information presented in court, on April 26, 2006, Lufkin police were dispatched to Gray's residence on a disturbance call. When they arrived, Gray walked out of the house holding a pistol. Gray was arrested for being a felon in possession of a firearm. Gray has a previous felony drug conviction. After his arrest, police discovered more than 5 grams of crack cocaine when they searched him.

If convicted, Gray faces up to 10 years imprisonment and a fine up to \$250,000 on the felon in possession charges, up to 40 years and a fine up to \$2 million on the drug count, and 5 years to life imprisonment with a fine up

to \$250,000 on the possession of a firearm during a drug trafficking crime.

The case is being investigated by the Lufkin Police Department and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Lisa Flournoy.

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